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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,466	03/20/2001	Masanobu Kanazawa	122.1445	7961

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EXAMINER

GODDARD, BRIAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/811,466	KANAZAWA, MASANOBU
	Examiner Brian Goddard	Art Unit 2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 to Klug et al.

Referring to claim 1, Klug discloses a membership management method in a membership management system as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management method [Figs. 2-8] in a membership management system [Fig. 1] comprising at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104], a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision

sites [Third Party Web Sites 116], and a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein when a user makes an application [Steps 404-408] for a registration of membership information [User Registration Information] to one service provision site [See Step 404] by using said user terminal, the application-requested service provision site registers [Steps 432-436] at least a part of the membership information into a database [148] held by the service provision site [See column 5, lines 7-12], and when this membership information has not yet been registered [Fig. 4] in a database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center also registers [Step 428 (See Figs. 2-3)] this membership information into [Step 236] the database [144] held by the integrated membership management center" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Klug discloses a membership management system as claimed. Again, see Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management system [Figure 1] comprising at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104], a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116], and a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein each service provision site comprises:

membership registration guidance display means [registration fill-out forms] for requesting a user to register membership information [See Steps 408-428];

means for guiding the user to obtain from a user terminal [the user submits the registration information] the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on the guidance of the membership registration guidance display means [See Steps 216-220 and 432];

means for requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information [See Step 424];

means for obtaining [See Step 800] from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration [See Figs. 4-6 & 8]; and

means for posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password that have been authenticated by the integrated membership management center [See Fig. 2B (Steps 240-256)]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when this means has received from a service provision site a request for registering membership information [See Step 800];

means for preparing a user ID and a password and adding these to a database when there is no record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching [See Steps 236-256];

means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services of the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching [See Steps 432-440]; and

means for posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site [See Step 432]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the membership registration guidance display means [See the discussion regarding claim 2 above] requests a user to input items of membership information that are necessary for the integrated membership management center [See Figs. 2-3] even if these pieces of information are not necessary for the service provision site [See Figs. 4-8]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 5, Klug discloses an integrated membership management center as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100] that is connected to a plurality of service

provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116] and to at least one user terminal [WWW Client Node 108] via a network [WWW 104], the integrated membership management center comprising a database [144] for registering new membership information [User Registration Information] that a user has used [Steps 424-432] when the user has accessed [Step 404] a service provision site from a user terminal [See Fig. 4]" as claimed.

Claim 6 is rejected on the same basis as claim 3 above, in light of the basis for claim 5. See the discussions regarding claims 3 and 5 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 7 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4. See the discussions regarding claims 2 and 4 above for the details of this disclosure.

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,496,855 to Hunt et al.

Referring to claim 5, Hunt discloses an integrated membership management center as claimed. See Figures 1-5 and the corresponding portions of Hunt's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Hunt teaches "an integrated membership management center [Registration Agent Site 4] that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites [Web Sites 3] and to at least one user terminal [Internet User's Computer 1] via a network [Internet 2], the integrated membership management center comprising a database [12] for registering new membership information [User Profile Information] that a user has used [Steps 201-204] when the user has accessed [Step 200] a service provision site from a user terminal [See Fig. 4]" as claimed.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent Nos. 6,092,196 to Reiche; 6,253,327 to Zhang et al; 6,532,488 to Ciarlante et al; 5,944,824 to He; and 5,684,950 to Dare et al. are each considered particularly pertinent to applicant's claimed invention.

The remaining U.S. Patents made of record are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, and/or portions of applicant's claimed invention.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 703-305-7821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahić can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

bdg  
April 18, 2003

  
SAFET METJAHIC  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100